

**For Immediate Release
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**City of Columbus Crossing Signals Upgrades Will
Increase Pedestrian Safety and Save Energy Costs
Federal Stimulus Dollars Will Fund New Signals**

Today, the City of Columbus will begin to upgrade its 3,698 pedestrian street crossing signals with energy-efficient LED crossing signals with visual countdown timers. The project will place the new crossing signals at all 1,000 intersections with traffic lights in the city, including those that currently do not have crossing signals. Upon completion in the fall of 2012, the new signals will provide an annual energy savings of about \$163,199, equivalent to 1,946,000 kilowatt-hours which can power 170 homes a year.

“We are investing in crossing signals that make our intersections safer with countdown timers that tell pedestrians how much time they have to safely cross the street,” said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. “These new energy-saving LED crossing signals also save money and help make Columbus a greener, healthier city.”

The city has tested LED crossing signals with countdown timers at four intersections since they were installed near the end of 2007:

- West Broad Street and Marconi Boulevard/Civic Center Drive
- West Broad Street and Central Avenue
- Cleveland Avenue and Mt. Vernon Avenue
- North High Street and East 15th Avenue

The city’s budget crisis and resulting tight capital budgets in 2008 and 2009 prevented the city from investing in additional LED crossing signals during those years.

“This is another example of a project made possible thanks to Columbus voters and their support of income tax increase,” said Councilmember Hearcel F. Craig, chair of the Public Service and Transportation committee. “The new crossing signals are visible reminders their tax dollars at work to make for a safer community.”

City Council approved \$1.109 million in federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funding for the LED crossing signals at their September 27 meeting. The block grant was awarded to the City of Columbus under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The new LED crossing signals will meet new federal and state standards for appearance and energy cost savings. The federal standards went into effect in 2009 and the state standards will be effective by the end of 2011.